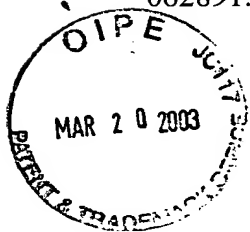


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Technology Center 2600

In re Application of: Field, et al.
Serial No.: 09/452,751
Filing Date: December 1, 1999
Group Art Unit: 2697
Examiner: Swickhamer, Christopher M.
Title: *SYNCHRONOUS SWITCH AND METHOD FOR A
TELECOMMUNICATIONS NODE*

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231-9999

Dear Sir:

"EXPRESS MAIL"

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Willie Jiles

Willie Jiles

RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111

In response to the Office Action mailed January 31, 2003, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following comments as set forth below. No amendments have been made.

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03/27/2003 WABDELRI 0008481100
03/27/2003 19.00 CR
03/27/2003 19.00 CR